

REMARKS

Applicants submit the following Amendment After Final in response to the final Office Action dated August 31, 2010. Claims 1-7 and 9-37 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of claim 10. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Favorable reconsideration of all of the pending claims is requested in view of the remarks below.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11-37 are allowed and that claims 5, 6 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are now allowable in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 5.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,944,562 to Christensson (the Christensson patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,416,504 to Sochor (the "Sochor patent"). Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's position regarding the Sochor patent since this reference is directed to a coupling for **mating electrical wires together** and does not constitute analogous art. The Examiner has taken the position that the electrical wire 76 in the Sochor patent constitutes a guide wire. Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner's position. However, in order to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the recitation of claim 10, namely, that the flexible member disposed on the guide wire is a coil spring. This amendment to claim 1 was not made for the purpose of distinguishing the prior art since it is strongly believed that the Sochor patent does not constitute analogous prior art and does not disclose the use of a guide wire, as that term is known in the industry. For at least this reason alone, the Sochor patent fails to disclose the structure recited in the rejected claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the previously pending claim 1 and similar claims in a

continuation to be filed in the future. In view of the amendment to claim 1, dependent claims 2-4, 7 and 9 should now be in a condition for allowance. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and is in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 06-2425 for any additional fees in connection with this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LLP

/Thomas H. Majcher/
Thomas H. Majcher
Registration No. 31,119

THM:lm